

BRIDGE-BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1961

-O-O-O-O-

Chairman of the Council - 1962

G. H. MOUNT



Public Health Committee in Office 1962

Councillor J. F. Montgomery - (Chairman)
Councillor A. R. Palmer - (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor F. V. Lee
Councillor A. Taylor
Councillor D. S. Mount
Councillor Rev. G. P. Chidgey
Councillor Mrs. S. Fuller
Councillor E. Mummery
Councillor A. T. Snoad


Ex-Officio Members

Councillor G. H. Mount (Chairman of the Council)
Councillor W. Gilliam (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Clerk to Council

I. F. SOILLEUX, ESQ.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28948634>

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1962

Senior Public Health Inspector	J. W. A. Brewster
Additional Public Health Insepctor	G. L. Almond
General Foreman	}	A. C. Vinten
Rodent Operator			

Clerical Staff: Clerks in the
Senior Public Health Insepctor's Miss M. Cox
Office (on reporting) Miss P. Couchman

Offices: Public Health Department, Rural District Council Offices,
41, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. (Telephone: 4216/7).

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report which covers the year 1961. You have already received Mr Brewster's report earlier in the year which will form part of the Statutory document forwarded to the Ministry. Mr Brewster and his staff do an excellent job in maintaining inspection of the district and are unfailing in their co-operation with me and my deputy and I wish to express my thanks to him and to the other senior officers for the happy spirit in which we work together, and to the Council for the attention given to my reports and advice.

1. The population of 19,800 mid 1961 showed no increase, but births and deaths both showed increases on 1960. The live births, 308 were an increase of 11% on the previous year and the deaths 353 an increase of 24%. Both birth rate and death rate corrected for the make up of our population compared favourably with the figures for England and Wales: Corrected Birth rate 19.4 per 1,000 population (England and Wales 17.4). Corrected Death rate 9.4 per 1,000 (England and Wales 12.).

2. The year was a measles year, a bi-annual occurrence, and this was the most common notifiable disease. The incidence built up in the February to May period, and was widespread.

3. The Medical Officer of Health is helped greatly by receiving a copy of the Form 22M1. used by the schools and I am indebted to the Head teachers of Barham and Bridge Primary Schools, and in the past to other Head teachers for sending in a copy of this form to me. It is the only reliable source of information on the occurrence of non-notifiable infectious diseases, and allows me to give warning where indicated to doctors in practice in the district and or in hospital practice of the presence of particular diseases. While the picture is only complete if all head teachers make use of the form the following information is available for 1961.
4. Measles built up its attack in February and altogether 251 cases were notified. This represented 1 in 12 of those under 15 years of age. But the rate was 1 in 10 of those under 5 and 1 in 8 of those in the primary school years.
5. Mumps broke out in the Kingston, Bishopsbourne, Bridge and Patricxbourne area in mid-May and the occurrence was 25 in May, 12 in June and 2 in July in a school of 70 to 80 pupils.
6. Chickenpox appeared in June in Bridge and that end of Canterbury, and smouldered throughout the summer to burst out with some fury in October. In 2 months 44 children were affected out of 75 in one school.
7. German Measles cases were reported, one in Bridge in July and one in Bossingham in October and were the precursors of a widespread outbreak during 1962.
8. Three out of the 5 notified cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Haine, and one unnotified case was also reported from there. The stay in hospital was just under four weeks in all cases.
9. Other cases isolated in hospital were - one severe mumps in a boy of 13 and one case of chickenpox in a child of 2 years.
10. A localized outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in July in Sturry, centred on the Primary School pupils and home contacts. Seventeen cases were identified of whom 4 were pre-school children, 2 in children under 1 year. The school co-operated in in taking sanitary precautions and fortunately the onset of school holidays broke the focal contact. There was no recurrence after the summer holidays. The organism was Sonne Dysentery Colicine Type 7.

11. An outbreak of diarrhoea and sickness occurred in the pupils of the school at Lower Hardres in late October. The school had 40 pupils and the number involved was 12. At first it appeared an explosive outbreak with onset on a Thursday but further enquiry disclosed a case on the day previous and some cases in the village subsequently. No pathogenic organisms were identified in the faecal specimens from the 12 affected children, the teacher, or the school meal served on the Wednesday. Other children suffered from bellyache without diarrhoea. The picture was not indicative of our common Autumn scourge, Epidemic nausea, nor so severe as Staphylococcal Toxin or B-Welchii food poisoning. A full investigation of methods of transporting and distributing the school meals was carried out and some flaws pointed out with subsequent improvement. No proof could be found for linking these faults with the outbreak and this outbreak concludes with remark "agent unidentified". Another school receiving the same school meal supply was unaffected.

12. A household outbreak in February involved 3 people in the house, one of whom was removed to hospital. We learned of the outbreak 2 days late but were able to rescue some of the food consumed at the meal prior to the onset of acute abdominal pain, sickness and subsequent diarrhoea. The picture was of Staphylococcal food poisoning, onset 1 to 2 hours after a common meal. Shepherd's pie and tinned peas were rescued and examined but no organisms isolated from them or the patient admitted to hospital.

13. A sharp rise in the cases of Respiratory tuberculosis from the annual figure of 2 in 1960 to 12 in 1961 will not go unnoticed. There was not any particular grouping of these cases except that some were identified in following up other cases and therefore all connected foci of infection appeared to be identified. It is necessary to mention the organisation for identifying and investigating respiratory tuberculosis. The Medical Officer of Health keeps a register of known cases which is kept up-to-date by exchange of information with the Chest Physician and through the County Medical Officer of Health and other Medical Officers of Health. Cases are taken off the register when declared cured or depart in other ways. Any new case notified results in a confidential exchange of information with the Chest Physician in order that the follow-up of contacts and investigation of source may be made. The County Council provides a specialist Health Visitor who is attached to the Clinic for Chest Diseases to assist in such investigations, skin testing, routine home visiting of cases and in other ways. Contacts are encouraged to have chest x-ray and skin test if indicated. In the case of a closed or intimate group such as a Hospital unit, school or barracks, a great number of investigations and follow-up examination may be required. In connection with B.C.G. vaccination of school children a positive reactor to the preliminary skin test is

checked by an x-ray of chest and in strong reactors investigation of home contacts may also be carried out.

14. The Health Visitor in her home visiting calls attention to any environmental factors in the case and our public health department then comes into action in housing inspection, reduction of overcrowding, support for rehousing and where requested to carry out disinfection. While the area is a designated one where tuberculosis cattle should not exist, routine biological tests of milk are still done, and in any case of surgical or glandular tuberculosis would be done on the milk supply.

15. Finally the Chest Clinic provides an open session for Chest x-ray every Monday morning between 10.30 am and 12 noon at which any adult may attend either referred from a doctor, or as a personal routine, or clarify a doubt if risk of infection by chance contact has occurred. Every man over 40 with a cough or feeling run down should take advantage of this service. Every courting couple should get a clear bill of health. A young man proposing marriage should present the lady with his x-ray clearance and the young lady in accepting should produce hers, and each anniversary of this happy moment should be the occasion for a joint visit to the x-ray unit.

16. The household pets are not immune from our interest. On information received from a local Veterinary Surgeon that a house-dog had died from tuberculosis the human contacts were visited and encouraged to obtain x-ray clearance. While there was a certain scepticism of these new fangled ideas, the clearance removed a real anxiety from the minds of the people concerned.

17. Other matters - Progress on housing is included in Mr Brewster's report, but I mention particularly the discussions which took place on St Mary's flats Upstreet and the recommendation to you that those flats which are unfit should be closed and the rest of the accommodation run down until it can be demolished and the site redeveloped. This project is still under way with some differences of opinion with the County planning department on the redevelopment scheme.

18. One case of overcrowding, by the presence of a lodger and his five children which was not beyond the statutory limit but caused overcrowding in usage, was dealt with satisfactorily without recourse to legal action.

19. Some property in Adisham purchased by arrangement in order to effect slum clearance was satisfactorily dealt with and is being redeveloped.

20. Further progress was attempted in the settlement of a middle-aged person of simple intellect, maintained by the County's home health services in a condemned house, by her removal to other accommodation. As no such accommodation could be provided for her at that time by the District Council attempts to resolve the problem through a Charity and an adjoining local authority were made but rather unsuccessfully. As the year ended we were not without hope for a future solution.

21. Progress was made in the district on sewerage new areas with Blean reaching completion and work in progress in Sturry, Fordwich, Tyler Hill and Upstreet. The Engineer was also carrying out improvements on Littlebourne and Harbledown.

22. The problem of disposal of sludge from an industrial process required special investigation during the year and it was necessary to object to a method of disposal which would undoubtedly have given rise to nuisance.

You are invited to scan the following statistics concerning the District and to look again at Mr Brewster's report of work done by the Public Health Staff.

1935

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS 1961

Population 19,800 Mid-1961

Live Births:	Male	168)	Illegitimate	Male	4)
	Female	140)		Female	11)
		308			15

Live Birth Rate 15.5 per 1,000 population

(Correction Factor 1.25) = Corrected Live Birth Rate 19.4 per 1,000
England and Wales 17.4 per 1,000

Stillbirths: Male 3)
 Female 1) 4 all Illegitimate

Total Births: 312 (live and still)

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births: 12.5
England and Wales: 18.7

Infant Deaths:
(under 1 year) Male 5) 8 all Illegitimate
 Female 3)

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:	26
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births:	27
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births:	Nil

Neonatal Deaths: Male 5)
(under 4 weeks) Female 2) 7

Neonatal Deaths: Male 5)
(under 1 week) Female 2) 7

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Early Neonatal Deaths)
Per 1,000 live and stillbirths: 35

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births: 4.9%
15 out of 308

Maternal Deaths: Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths: Nil

Deaths all causes: Male 193) 253
 Female 160)

Death rate per 1,000 population: 17.8 (Correction Factor 0.53)

Corrected Death Rate: 9.4 per 1,000 population

England and Wales: 12. per 1,000 population

CAUSES OF DEATHS							Total 1960	Total 1961
Tuberculosis, Respiratory							-	2
Tuberculosis, Other							1	-
Other infectious or parasitic diseases ..							3	2
Cancer Stomach							3	9
Cancer Lungs and Bronchus							9	11
Cancer Breast							5	6
Cancer Uterus							1	5
Other Cancers							24	34
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia							1	-
Diabetes							2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System							35	37
Coronary Disease, Angina							46	49
Hypertension with Heart Disease							14	11
Other Heart Disease							54	74
Other Circulatory Diseases							15	19
Influenza							-	4
Pneumonia							6	22
Bronchitis							9	16
Other Respiratory Disease							7	5
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum							4	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea							1	-
Nephritis, Nephrosis							8	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate							-	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion							-	-
Congenital Malformation							-	2
Other defined and illdefined diseases ..							29	23
Motor Accidents							4	5
All other accidents							4	7
Suicide							-	2
Homicide or War							-	-
Total Deaths by Sexes						Male: 138	138	193
						Female: 147	147	160
Total Deaths							285	353

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

Disease	Age Grouping									Quarters 1961				
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	1	2	3	4	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5	4	-	1	-	5
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	9	7	2	-	-	9
Measles	3	18	24	23	27	129	20	7	251	86	143	17	5	251
Dysentery	2	-	-	-	2	6	6	1	17	-	-	17	-	17

CHEST AND OTHER DISEASES NOTIFIED

Disease	Age Grouping						Quarters 1961				Total
	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65+	Total	1	2	3	4	
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	2	3	8	14	10	2	1	1	14
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	5	2	5	12	4	2	6	-	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION & VACCINATION DURING 1961

		Under 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total
Smallpox:	Primary Vaccinations	208	8	5	221
	Revaccinations	-	2	3	5
Diphtheria:	Primary	311	30	-	341
	Reinforcing	24	136	-	160
Whooping Cough:	Primary	300	18	-	318
Poliomyelitis:	2 injection course	211	59	173	543
	3rd injection completed	280	133	401	814
	4th injections under 12 years				2402

BRIDGE-BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1961

--ooOoo--

Chairman of the Council

COUNCILLOR G. H. MOUNT, J.P., T.D.

Public Health Committee 1961

Chairman

Councillor J. F. Montgomery

Vice Chairman

Councillor A. Taylor

Councillor A. R. Palmer

Councillor F. V. Lee

Councillor D. Mount

Councillor Rev. G. Chidgey

Councillor Mrs. S. Fuller

Ex Officio Members

Councillor G. H. Mount (Chairman of the Council)

Councillor W. Gilliam (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

--ooOoo--

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. M. S. Harvey, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	J. W. A. Brewster
Additional Public Health Inspector	G. L. Almond
General Foreman/Rodent Operator	A. Vinten
Shorthand Typist	Miss H. A. Wilson
Clerk	Mrs. A. M. Kennett

--ooOoo--

<u>Clerk of the Council</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Engineer and Surveyor</u>
I. F. Soilleux, Esq.	B. G. S. Haste, Esq.	P. J. Thackray, Esq.

--ooOoo--

Offices: Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
41 Old Dover Road,
Canterbury.

Telephone: Canterbury 4216

Depots: Garage, Mill Lane,
Bridge. Tel: Bridge 302
Conyngham Lane Bridge

--ooOoo--

January, 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Fourth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district and the work carried out by the Department in 1961.

I suppose the three major events of the year were the completion of the Housing Survey; the re-organization of the Scavenging Section following the untimely death of Mr. L. Bond; and the mechanisation of refuse disposal. I will be dealing with these items in detail under their respective headings.

The year has not passed without some criticism of the Council and its Officers, together with the usual distorted reporting that makes a news story. I have usually found in investigating such matters that the critics were not in possession of all the facts, and rather than consult the appropriate officer or Councillors for advice and assistance have turned to other persons, action which has led to a complete misunderstanding of the case.

I am again indebted to my staff and the members and officers of the Council for their assistance and support. As I write this report I am aware of the fact that the two clerical members will be leaving during the next few weeks and the business of training new members has to start all over again. This of course is not peculiar to my department but does seem to affect the whole of the Local Government Service and can only lead to some loss of efficiency and output.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J Brewster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

H O U S I N G

The complete housing survey, excluding the highly rated and modern properties, was completed during the year - a task which occupied some 18 months and the bulk of which was shouldered by my colleague. The facts which have emerged from this survey are very interesting and are summarised below. The Council has already approved the second slum Clearance Programme for the 161 houses (i.e. Categories 4 & 5). The figure of 410 (Category 3) should not be overlooked as these are the unfit properties of the late 1960's/70's unless the Improvement Grants schemes are more widely used.

Table 1

P A R I S H	No. of Prop- erties.	C A T E G O R I E S					Action Taken
		1	2	3	4	5	
Adisham	139	105	14	17	1	-	2
Barham	370	261	53	33	9	9	5
Bekesbourne	183	149	23	9	-	-	2
Bishopsbourne	83	61	9	5	8	-	-
Blean	346	295	32	9	2	2	6
Bridge	259	200	40	17	2	-	-
Chartham	659	474	101	50	21	3	10
Chislet	258	136	53	51	3	5	10
Fordwich	73	42	18	13	-	-	-
Hackington	105	70	19	7	-	1	8
Harbledown	641	563	62	11	2	2	1
Hoath	124	103	10	9	-	2	-
Ickham	170	109	16	28	8	-	9
Kingston	127	76	26	18	4	1	2
Littlebourne	368	311	46	8	1	-	2
Lower Hardres	124	100	10	14	-	-	-
Patrixbourne	77	70	1	6	-	-	-
Petham	199	143	25	18	11	1	1
Sturry	1,012	886	81	28	5	3	9
Thanington	267	254	7	4	2	-	-
Upper Hardres	96	53	22	11	4	5	1
Waltham	124	69	19	15	10	8	3
Wickhambresux	158	80	26	18	14	1	19
Westbere	131	116	8	3	3	1	-
Womenswold	113	36	56	8	2	5	6
T O T A L S	6,206	4,762	787	410	112	49	96
					161		

NOTE Cat. 1 - Fit House; Cat. 2 - Minor repairs needed;
Cat. 3 - Major repairs needed; Cat. 4 & 5 - Unfit house

Table II

P A R I S H	Number of properties	With mains water	" complete hot water system	" rain drainage	" sinks	" baths	Int. W.C.s	Ext. W.C.s	Ext. P.C.s	Int. P.C.s
Adisham	139	139	97	20	131	102	104	4	31	-
Barham	370	368	281	45	349	285	259	27	83	1
Bekesbourne	183	182	126	24	183	145	141	21	20	1
Bishopsbourne	83	74	53	--	79	58	55	4	24	-
Blean	346	343	273	271	340	280	289	31	25	1
Bridge	259	259	179	6	259	183	187	45	27	-
Chartham	659	630	416	94	638	436	421	62	176	-
Chislet	258	246	123	21	246	143	127	25	105	1
Fordwich	73	73	34	--	65	36	36	2	35	-
Hackington	105	101	69	--	103	71	68	1	36	-
Harbledown	641	638	555	556	641	561	559	67	15	-
Hoath	124	124	73	49	123	79	76	26	22	-
Ickham	170	170	100	--	166	100	102	6	62	-
Kingston	127	125	75	--	126	98	102	6	19	-
Littlebourne	368	368	258	316	368	270	275	90	3	-
Lower Hardres	124	124	94	--	123	97	96	4	24	-
Patrixbourne	77	77	69	--	76	70	65	7	5	-
Petham	199	195	134	--	198	152	135	27	37	-
Sturry	1012	985	866	629	1005	880	868	30	114	-
Thanington	267	263	249	39	267	258	256	4	7	-
Upper Hardres	96	92	53	--	95	57	57	12	27	-
Waltham	124	120	74	--	119	78	76	8	37	3
Westbere	131	131	89	58	131	91	89	35	7	-
Wickhambreaux	158	151	82	--	144	89	84	5	68	1
Womenswold	113	110	71	58	111	82	62	31	20	-
T O T A L S	6206	6088	4493	2186	6086	4701	4589	580	1029	8
% OF TOTAL		98%	72%	35%	98%	75%	74%	95%	16.5%	•1%
							83.5%		16.5%	

H O U S I N G (Contd.)

These figures show that approximately 1 in 4 dwellings is without a bath and complete hot water system and 1 in 6 still relies on pail closet sanitary accommodation. There is still a long way to go before every family enjoys the same amenities as the Council tenant. It was fairly evident from the then Minister of Housing and Local Government (Mr. Henry Brooke) when he addressed the Association of Public Health Inspectors' Conference last year that legislation requiring the provision of W.C.'s where sewers are not available, baths and hot water systems in existing dwellings was not likely to be placed on the Statute Book for some time. A fit house therefore still needn't have any of these amenities until the owner decides to carry out these improvements either with or without the aid of a grant. Members will know that apart from Agricultural properties the number of applications received in respect of ordinary tenancies has been very small indeed.

Further progress was made during the year in dealing with unfit properties, 60 were represented and 31 families rehoused. It is most important that the policy of rehousing from unfit properties is continued if the work in this field is to progress. The day when the "To Let" boards could be seen in any street is a thing of the past and the tenants, owners and even the courts look to the local authority to deal with this problem. The number of good landlords diminishes every year making it difficult to secure the carrying out of even minor works of repair. In most cases owners invite condemnation of their properties in order that the tenants can be rehoused and the site or property sold at a fabulous price for redevelopment. Unfortunately it is the tenant who has to be uprooted and forced to live in a more urbanised community at a rent which many cannot properly afford. This is one of the main reasons for much adverse publicity up and down the country, but how is the problem to be solved unless the Local Authorities are prepared to purchase such property and maintain it at a loss!

Improvement Grants

There was a slight falling off in the number of improvement grants approved, 88 to 78, although the cost increased. At the end of the year the number of applications awaiting approval amounted to no more than two or three; a most unusual state of affairs, which cannot be blamed entirely on the season of the year, one has probably to look at rising costs in the building industry together with financial restrictions as being the main cause. Standard grant applications amounted to 9

FOOD AND DRUGS

Towards the end of the year under review it was possible to once again commence routine inspections of food premises, the small transport type cafe, bakehouses (rapidly diminishing in number), licensed premises and food shops.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have now been in force for some six years and the majority of premises now have the necessary equipment and amenities. During this period the Brewers have steadily worked through their respective houses, leaving to the end the unremunative ones. These will have to be the subject of stronger action and may well disappear as public houses.

During the year my attention was drawn to the practice of general stores acting as laundry receiving depots, a very satisfactory arrangement for the customer out at work and also the laundry, but not a desirable one as regards food hygiene. Fortunately, in the shops inspected to date the arrangements for the storage of soiled clothing is reasonable although in one case it was stored alongside prepacked food. These comments only underline the need for constant inspection and education as the production of clean food does depend finally on the individual however well the premises are equipped.

Routine milk sampling has continued with satisfactory results there being only one unsatisfactory report. No ice cream sampling was carried out mainly due to lack of time available and also the fact that the commodity sold in this area is manufactured by the big companies and is no doubt being sampled daily throughout the country, although of course it is important to keep a check on the shopkeeper as to rotation of stock and refrigerator temperature.

WATER SUPPLIES

Now that the Housing Survey has been completed it is possible to give accurate figures as to the state of the district in respect of water supplies. Out of the 6,206 units of accommodation 118 are without a mains water supply. This is a very satisfactory picture especially when the majority of this figure have a satisfactory alternative supply.

I set out overleaf the position in the parishes affected:-

W A T E R S U P P L I E S (Contd.)

P A R I S H	No. without mains water	No. empty or condemned under Housing Act.	Remarks
Berham	2	1	6 properties supplied by deep wells piped to houses.
Bekesbourne	1		
Bishopsbourne	9	2	
Blean	3	3	5 properties at Big- bury Wood, Chartham Hatch. 17 properties in My- stole area.
Chartham	29	3	
Chislet	12	4	Alcroft Grange and Cottage supplied by deep well.
Hackington	4	2	
Harbledown	3	1	Mainly outlying farms in Broad Oak area with satisfactory spring supplies.
Kingston	2	1	
Petham	4	2	
Sturry	27	8	
Thanington	4	1	
Upper Hardres	4	2	
Waltham	4	3	
Wickhambreaux	7	3	
Womenswold	3	3	
T O T A L S	118	39	

It will be seen that when the 39 empty or unfit properties have been dealt with the total problem is reduced to 79 or approximately $1\frac{1}{4}\%$.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S (Contd.)

To sum up the following are the main areas without mains water:-

- (a) Mystole and Pickleden, Chartham.
- (b) Bigbury Wood, Chartham Hatch.
- (c) Farms and cottages to the north of Broad Oak, Sturry.
- (d) Pett Bottom, Bishopsbourne.

Area (a) on the whole, has a satisfactory supply until the pumping equipment fails, as it did just before Christmas. Area (b) has been considered on numerous occasions but has been shelved mainly on account of the cost of the scheme. North of Broad Oak (area c) the scattered farms have ample supplies of pure spring water and at (d) there is a plentiful supply from deep wells.

Regular sampling of all suspect supplies has continued throughout the year and the necessary action taken. Wherever possible odd properties will be connected to the mains.

D R A I N A G E A N D S E W E R A G E

One hundred and sixty-eight visits were made during the year mainly in connection with overflowing systems and advice to owners re improvements to existing systems.

During the year the Blean and Hollow Street, Chislet schemes were completed and work was under way in Sturry, Fordwich and Tyler Hill. Towards the end of the year the Upstreet scheme commenced and consideration was being given to Thanington and the Giles Lane and Amery Court areas of Blean. To the residents of these areas this news will come as a relief as the system of cesspools and septic tanks is rather antiquated for the year 1961 and completely foreign to persons who have moved here from a sewered area. The emptying of cesspools is also expensive and poses problems as to disposal.

It is very difficult to secure improvements to cesspools of inadequate capacity in view of the high cost of enlarging or constructing new cesspools although the discretionary grants give some measure of control. I look forward to the sewerage of all our larger villages at the same time looking back at the progress that has been made during the past few years with the resultant improvement to living standards

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Cesspool Emptying

Despite the saving to this service by the completion of the Blean scheme there has been another increase in the amount of sewage removed. This year the rise is some 300 loads or nearly two months work for one lorry. Similar facts to these have been reported on other occasions and I think it is appreciated that unless there is a rapid drop in new development the new main drainage schemes will not result in a reduction in the size of the fleet.

At the present time five machines are engaged on this work. On completion of the current main drainage schemes I hope that one machine will be able to deal with all the unsewered properties in the northern part of the district (Blean to Chislet) on a rota basis.

Pail Emptying

Although most figures go up these days this is one service where the demand is falling away. The Blean scheme has enabled us to make further economies in this direction. Today one machine is employed full time with assistance from another machine on one day only. I have done nothing in the way of following up the suggestion outlined in my Report to you of 1960 concerning pail closet conversions in unsewered areas as there has been a steady flow of Improvement Grant schemes dealing with this very point. I am still of the opinion, however, that in a year or two this matter should receive careful consideration otherwise there will be long and uneconomic runs to collect odd pails in outlying areas.

Refuse Collection

Owing to pressure of work in other quarters it has not been possible to revise the present collection rounds also the question of a new tipping ground in the south has not been resolved. New development has meant that the spare refuse machine is being used more and more for collection work. It will be necessary therefore to consider providing an additional refuse machine in the estimates for the year 1962/3. Refuse collected in 1961 amounted to nearly 200 loads more than the previous year, a rise of 7%.

Disposal

The mechanical control of refuse disposal has been very successful although in the earlier days some difficulty was experienced in covering the tip face. This has largely been overcome

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Contd.)

by decreasing the depth of the tipping area which in turn requires more covering material.

Tipping space at Barham is nearly exhausted and an alternative site is difficult to find as a large area is covered by the Mid Kent Water Company's defined area. Negotiations were opened with a land owner in Bishopsbourne to purchase a section of the disused Elham Valley Railway line but after some 18 months patient waiting the proposals had to be abandoned. I am now waiting to hear from an owner of land in Derrington who lives abroad.

Thought must soon be given to the Chartham tip where satisfactory tipping space is also running out. The risks of tipping into the main lakes at this site are too great especially bearing in mind the report recently issued on 'Pollution of water by tipped refuse' and the nearness of the Canterbury Water Company's new borehole at Howfield Lane.

Our other refuse tips are located at Blean, Broad Oak and Oldridge Wood - the latter being the disposal point for pail contents and large amounts of sludge and cesspool contents. Over the past number of years I have been able to reduce the amount of cesspool contents deposited on open land. Limited amounts however are still being discharged at Chartham Hatch, Fordwich, Barham and Waltham. Complaints have recently been received with regard to Waltham and although the public health risk is very slight, it does exist. This is another good reason for the carrying through of the Chartham and Barham Main Drainage Schemes as on completion of these only Oldridge need be used, where the tipping could probably be controlled along with refuse disposal.

General

The death of Mr. Bond made it necessary to reorganise the whole Scavenging Scheme in the early part of the year. Much had been done by Mr. Bond to put the scheme into efficient order as regards equipment, servicing and general operation. I formed the opinion however that there was no longer any need for the service of a full time Transport Officer and Mr. A. Vinten was appointed to the new post of General Foreman/Rodent Operator. The experiment of dealing with the administrative side at this office has been highly successful, the allocation of work and day to day duties being ably carried out by the General Foreman, who has a wide knowledge and experience of the district. I am indebted to my assistant who takes over control of the garage during the Foreman's absence on leave, etc.

M O V E A B L E D W E L L I N G S

The new Caravan Act has been in force for over 16 months and at the present day 21 sites have been licensed. With 5 exceptions the sites are for one or two caravans. Some progress has been made in securing improvements on the lines of the Standard Conditions approved by the Council but there is still a long way to go and it will probably be necessary to take enforcement action in certain cases during 1962 as to date informal action has not been successful, in fact in one case the site owner admitted that she hadn't bothered to read the conditions attached to the licence!

In the main it is the site with a dozen or more caravans that gives rise to concern. Owing to protracted proceedings in connection with Town and Country Planning and consequent delay in issuing licences very little improvements have been carried out on the Blean and Broad Oak sites. I hope that it will be a different story when I write my next report. The Petham site, which was expected to be the biggest headache of 1961, is rapidly becoming a model site and a lot of credit must go to the owner who has maintained a close contact with the various officers as works have proceeded.

There are, and always will be, numerous caravans which are exempt from licensing control, in the main they are usually occupied by seasonal agricultural workers, or are being stored for the winter months.

To the best of my knowledge there are 37 such caravans in the district.

H O P P I C K E R S C A M P S

This will probably be the last time that I shall need to comment in detail on this aspect of our work. The influx of pickers from London and the Medway towns is now down to a trickle as more farmers instal machines. The two camps still catering for pickers and which were the subject of a report to the Public Health Committee in 1960 were greatly improved last year.

As long as huts are available they will provide substandard accommodation for problem families from time to time. Such was the case at Charthen when two families moved in during hop picking and stayed on until Christmas. There is very little action the Local Authority can take apart from rehousing, as the Kent County Council Act does not apply to this problem in this district. Both cases received visits from numerous Authorities and Societies and in the end disappeared as quickly as they had appeared.

C L E A N A I R A C T

Work on extensions and improvements to the Paper Mill, Oaratham has continued during the year and 1962 should see the provision of new boilers which should go a long way to abating the nuisance from smoke. Numerous representations were made to the firm during the year to reduce as far as possible the emission of dark and at times black smoke, although it was appreciated that they were working under difficulties.

Other complaints received during the year included two from householders affected by smoke from the chimneys of neighbouring properties. The Clean Air Act does not apply in such cases. It is interesting to note however that the new Public Health Act includes provisions for controlling chimney heights for certain kinds of new dwellings.

L I T T E R A C T

Despite the amount of litter which can be seen throughout the district it was not possible to take any formal action under this Act. The erection of fencing and posting of notices has little if any effect and this is one of the occasions I would like to see a few prosecutions with the resultant publicity. Although instructions have been given to the drivers of all refuse vehicles to clear sites of litter when time and space on the vehicles allow I think it would be worthwhile to make periodic 'sweeps' of the district when the reserve refuse vehicle is available to clear the well known 'black spots'.

I am pleased to report that more litter bins have been provided by Parish Councils and that the Kent County Council (Roads Dept.) have provided adequate facilities on the main roads. These receptacles are regularly cleared during the collection of household refuse and apart from a weekend or two around the August Bank Holiday the arrangements worked satisfactorily.

N O I S E A B A T E M E N T A C T

A few complaints were received during the year but only one caused any concern. This related to the use of an automatic bird scarer, which in my opinion could have been classed as a nuisance as well as being prejudicial to health as several people in the immediate vicinity worked on night shift. I fail to see however how the owner could minimise the noise without reducing the efficiency of the apparatus with consequent loss of fruit and therefore livelihood. I welcome the redevelopment of the

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT (Contd.)

orchard as my sympathies lie equally with the complainants and the owner.

Letters were sent to various ice cream vendors who allowed the amplifiers on their vehicles to be operated outside permitted hours.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT

No progress was made during the year in connection with the survey of sanitary accommodation on agricultural units and unless the staff is increased I cannot see much hope of improvement. The position is much the same in many other rural authorities, in fact some of my colleagues are of the opinion that the Act is unworkable.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine treatment of infestation notified by complaints proceeded steadily throughout the year and the number of treatments varied little with 1960. It was noticeable at the end of the year that many more infestations were being notified due to the influx of rats from the fields.

A test of the sewerage systems was carried out in April and once again showed that there were no rats living in the sewers. This is a pleasing state of affairs as treatment of such infestation can be lengthy and costly.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

As will be seen from the statistics at the end of the report the majority of factories have power and so most of the provisions of the Act are administered by the Factory Inspector.

MISCELLANEOUS

Work in connection with the undermentioned duties is carried out from day to day. For the year under review there is little of interest on which to report:-

Shops Act
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections
Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order

A P P E N D I X
S T A T I S T I C S
H O U S I N G

Inspections and Action taken, etc.

A. Housing Statistics

New houses erected by the Council	42
New houses under construction by the Council	61
New houses erected by Private Enterprise	116
Houses demolished under Housing Acts	28
Houses demolished by other persons.. .. .	NIL
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation under Housing Acts	54
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation by other persons	NIL
Conversions of properties into dwellings under Housing Act	1
Conversions of properties into dwellings by other persons	1
Conversions of properties in progress under Housing Act	1
Conversions of properties in progress by other persons.. .. .	NIL

B. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year

1. (a) Number inspected under Housing Acts	149
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	865
(c) Number of miscellaneous Housing visits	181
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (S ection 16).. .. .	60
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (S ection 9)	NIL
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) Serving of notices requiring the execution of works (Section 9)	NIL
(b) The making of Demolition or Closing Orders (Section 16)	60
5. (a) Number inspected under Public Health Act	34
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	197
6. Number of informal notices served	32
7. Number of formal notices served	5
8. Number of cases of overcrowding known to the Local Authority at 31st December, 1960	1
9. Number of such cases identified during 1961	3
10. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1961	2

HOUSING (Contd.)

Rent Act - Certificates Granted and Cancelled

2 Applications were made for Certificates, one was granted.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Number of visits - 88

Milk and Dairies

No. of bacteriological samples taken - 22
(including 11 from St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham)
No. of unsatisfactory samples - 1
No. of statutory samples taken - 11
(all from St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham)
No. of unsatisfactory samples - Nil
No. of Registered Distributors - 22

Ice Cream

Details of sampling - Nil

Food Inspection

Amounts of food condemned during the year:-

Fish Cakes - $169\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Ham - $16\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Visits and Action

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	27	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	57	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	30	-	-	-
T O T A L S	90	27	-	-

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES (Contd.)

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspect.	By H.M. Inspect.	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					

R O D E N T C O N T R O L

Summary of Visits and Treatments

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Property	Total
Inspections	67	271	26	15	379
Treatments	41	193	17	3	254

S U M M A R Y O F M I S C E L L A N E O U S V I S I T S

Drainage	168
Moveable Dwellings	78
Hoppers Huts	15
Refuse Collection and Disposal	229
Miscellaneous. sanitary visits	207

W A T E R S U P P L Y

Number of Visits - 48

<u>Canterbury Water Co.</u>	<u>Mid Kent Water Co.</u>	<u>Thanet Water Board</u>
Blean	Barham	Adisham
Chartham	Kingston	Bekesbourne
Chisle	Petham	Bridge
Fordwich	Upper Hardres	Bishopsbourne
Hackington	Waltham	Ickham
Harbledown		Littlebourne
Hoath		Patricxbourne
Lower Hardres		Wickhambreaux
Sturry		Womenswold
Thanington Without		
Westbere		

P U B L I C C L E A N S I N G A N D S A L V A G E E T C.

Particulars of Vehicles

<u>Veh. No.</u>	<u>Index No.</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Duties</u>
1	HKE 604	1945	Dennis	Cesspool
2	HKT 301	1947	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
3	JKL 224	1947	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
4	HJK 374	1945	Dennis	Cesspool
5	XJG 762	1961	Bedford	Cesspool
6	LKE 684	1948	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
7	LKK 917	1949	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
8	UFN 802	1960	Karrier	Refuse
9	SFN 286	1959	Bedford	Refuse
10	NKN 457	1951	Dennis	Refuse
11	SKN 127	1954	Dennis	Refuse
12	WJG 746	1961	Fordson	Refuse Disposal
13	UJG 538	1960	Morris Van	Garage/Surveyors
14	GJG 927	1953	Ford Van	Engineer & Surveyors
15	LJG 468	1956	Austin Van	Finance
16	UFN 922	1960	Austin Van	Engineer & Surveyors
17	QJG 424	1958	Austin Van	Rodent Control
18	LJG 469	1956	Austin Van	Engineer & Surveyors
19	HFN 414	1953	Ford Van	Reserve

